DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 187 400 JC 800 345

AUTHOR Gold, Ben K.
TITLE Public Relations 2 Class Safety Survey. Research Study Number 80-7.
INSTITUTION Los Angeles City Coll., Calif.
PUB DATE Jun 80
NOTE 10p.

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Age; Asian Americans; Black Students; *Community Colleges; Crime; Females; Hispanic Americans; Males; *School Safety; *School Security; Security Personnel; *Student Attitudes; Student Behavior; Student Projects; Student Welfare; Two Year Colleges; *Two Year College Students; Violence; White Students

ABSTRACT

As part of a curriculum unit on opinions and surveys, a public relations class at Los Angeles City College (LACC) conducted a survey in May 1980 to assess student attitudes toward and awareness of safety on the LACC campus. Data were collected during personal interviews conducted by 22 students at nine campus locations between 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Major findings, based on responses from 342 day students, indicated that 43% of the students felt that safety was a problem on the LACC campus and that parking lots and public restrooms were the most unsafe areas. Over two-thirds of the students indicated that they felt "very secure" or "somewhat secure" due to the presence of campus police, but 74% stated that there was a need for more call boxes. While 76% indicated that they always locked their car doors and 80.7% said that they kept careful watch of their books and personal belongings, only 15.8% indicated that they always walked in pairs. Nearly two-thirds expressed a willingness to attend campus safety meetings. When asked what they thought individuals could do to improve campus safety, 90 students said "Be alert and cautious." When asked what the administration could do to improve the situation, students most frequently suggested having more police and more lights. Data tables illustrate the sex, ethnic background, and age of the respondents, as well as their answers to the survey questions. (Author/JP)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED187400

LOS ANGELES CITY COLLEGE

"PUBLIC RELATIONS 2 CLASS SAFETY SURVEY"

Research Study #80-7

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

Ben K. Gold

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY

Ben K. Gold
Research Office
June 1980

JC 800 345

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

As a part of a curriculum unit on opinions and surveys, the Spring 1980 Public Relations 2 class undertook a project to assess student attitudes and awareness relating to safety on the LACC campus.

The research director was invited by Mrs. Toni Redfield, instructor of the class, to meet with the class and offer suggestions for the conduct of the survey. The project was pursued by the class and produced findings which were felt to be of campus-wide interest. Hence this report.

Appreciation is expressed to Ms. Redfield and members of the class for designing and executing the study. A special thank you is due to class member Gordon Loomis, who supervised the data collection and provided preliminary tabulation and analysis.

PROCEDURE OF THE STUDY

Data for the study were collected by personal interview. The twenty two members of the class stationed themselves at nine different campus locations during the class period, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, May 9 and conducted the interviews according to a pre-arranged plan. In addition to recording answers to the ten questions on the interview schedule, class members recorded (by visual inspection) sex, ethnic, and approximate age of each interviewee in order to have some indication of the representativeness of the sample.

FINDINGS

342 students were interviewed by the 22 class members. Table A indicates sex, ethnic, and age characteristics of the interviewees together with recent figures for all LACC students. Tables 1 - 10 summarize responses to the ten questions asked by the interviewers.

TABLE A - Sex, Ethnic, Age of Respondents

	Interviewees		All LACC (F'79)
	No.	%	%
Sex			
Male	183	53.5	47.0
Female	159	46.5	53.0
Ethnic			
Black	127	37.1	36.2
White	96	28.1	20.8
Asian	44	12.9	21.5
Hispanic	51	14.9	18.5
Mid-Eastern	24	7.0	N/A
Other	N/A	-	3.0
Age			
Under 20	102	29.8	16.3
20-35	211	61.7	65.6
Over 35	29	8.5	18.2
Total	342	100.0	100.0

TABLE 1

Do you feel safety is a problem on this campus?

	No.	%
yes	148	43.3
no	194	56.7
Total	342	100.0

TABLE 2

Is there an area on campus where you feel unsafe?

Response	No. of responses
No	170
Parking lots	39
Everywhere	17
Restrooms	17
Bungalows	11
Everywhere at night	9
Cafeteria	8
Athletic area/gyms	8
DaVinci Hall	5
Streets	5
Men's P.E. Building	5
Administration Building	4
Life Science Building	4
Library	4
Chemistry Building	3
Behind buildings	3
Hallways	3
Student store	2
Theater Building	2
Entrances	2
Unpopulated areas	2
Upper floors	2
Empty classrooms	2
T.V. Building	2
Tennis courts	1
Student Center	1

TABLE 3

How secure to you feel by the presence of the police on campus?

	No.	%
very	115	33.6
somewhat	128	37.4
not at all	81	23.7
(not sure)	18	5.3
Total	342	100.0

TABLE 4

Are you aware of call boxes on campus?

	No.	%
yes	222	64.9
no	117	34.2
(not sure)	3	0.9
Total	342	100.0

TABLE 5

Do you feel there should be more call boxes?

	No.	%
yes	252	73.7
no	74	21.6
(not sure)	16	4.7
Total	342	100.0

TABLE 6

If answer is yes, where should boxes be located?

Response	No. of responses
Entrances to buildings	48
Everywhere	46
Where visible	31
Parking lots	26
Restrooms	12
Halls	8
Gym	8
Every 100 feet	7
Less populated areas	6
Cafeteria	6
More populated areas	5
Bungalows	4
Athletic area	4
Quad	4
Student Center	2
Trailers	1
Near phones	1
Near vending machines	1
In classes	1
Dark areas	1
At bus stops	1
At newspaper boxes	1
On sidestreets	1
On lightposts	1
Put lights and bells on boxes	1

TABLE 7

To insure safety, do you:

(a) walk in pairs?

	No.	%
always	54	15.8
sometimes	166	48.5
never	122	35.7
Total	342	100.0

(b) stay alert to possible dangers?

	No.	%
always	222	64.9
sometimes	77	22.5
never	35	10.2
(not sure)	8	2.3
Total	342	100.0

(c) lock car doors?

	No.	%
always	260	76.0
sometimes	32	9.4
never	16	4.7
(not sure)	34	9.9
Total	342	100.0

(d) keep careful watch over your books and other valuables?

	No.	%
always	276	80.7
sometimes	53	15.5
never	5	1.5
(not sure)	8	2.3
Total	342	100.0

TABLE 8

Would you go to safety meetings on campus if they were held at convenient times?

	No.	%
yes	216	63.2
no	123	36.0
(not sure)	3	0.8
Total	342	100.0

TABLE 9

What can an individual do to improve the safety situation on the campus?

Response	No. of responses
Be alert and cautious	90
Don't know	45
Walk with someone	23
Look out for each other	19
Study self defense	18
Report incidents or dangers	11
Carry weapons	6
Go to meetings	6
Be safe yourself	5
Keep cool	4
Watch your things	4
Carry mace/whistle/alarm	4
Be law abiding	4
Mind your own business	4
Less apathy	3
Do no. 7	3
Keep track of problem students	3
Keep hands to yourself	2
Already being done	2
Don't carry valuables	2
Student patrols	2
Make school safer	2
Females stop advertising	2
Lock doors	1
Stay home	1
Stay in populated areas	1
Change schools	1
Get in shape	1
Rules be listed in classrooms	1

TABLE 10

What should the administration do to improve safety?

Response	No. of responses
More campus police	109
More lights	34
Nothing	31
Don't know	22
More call boxes	16
More safety meetings	15
As much as possible	9
Get rid of carts on campus	9
Plain clothes police	8
More money for security	8
More safety awareness	6
Student orientation	6
More police in parking lots	5
LAPD patrol	5
Student patrol	5
Watch student behavior	5
Close off campus	4
Better communication with students	4
Walk in pairs	4
Less apathy	4
Make police do their job	3
More night police	3
Fix call boxes	3
Improve administration	3
Security checks on upper floors	2
Keep weirdos off campus	2
Continue present actions	2
Check I.D.'s	2
More prompt response to calls	2
More security in isolated areas	2
Bigger policemen	2
Better alarm system	2
More printed material	2

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This study reports the findings of a "safety survey" conducted by members of the Spring 1980 day Public Relations 2 class. 22 members of the class interviewed 342 day students. Following are some observations on the findings of the study:

(1) a check of sex, ethnic, and age characteristics reveals that both sexes and all ethnic and age groups are represented in the sample, although white males are slightly over-represented.

(2) Forty three percent of the students said they felt that safety is a problem on the LACC campus. Most often stated area where students feel unsafe is the campus parking lots, followed by restrooms.

(3) Over two-thirds of the students indicated they felt very or somewhat secure by the presence of the campus police.

(4) About two-thirds of the students stated they were aware of the call boxes on campus, and nearly three-quarters indicated they felt there should be more call boxes, with most often areas recommended for additional boxes being entrances to buildings and parking lots.

(5) When asked about specific recommended safety procedures, less than one-sixth of the students stated that they always walked in pairs, about two-thirds said they always stayed alert to possible dangers, about three-quarters always locked their car doors, and about 80% indicated they always kept careful watch over their books and other valuables.

(6) Nearly two-thirds of the students indicated they would attend safety meetings on campus if the time was convenient.

(7) When asked what they thought individuals could do to improve campus safety, most common response was to be alert and cautious. Other suggestions were to walk with someone, look out for each other, and study self-defense.

(8) When students were asked what they thought the administration should do to improve safety, most popular suggestions were more police, better lighting, more call boxes, and more safety meetings.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
ERIC CLEARINGHOUSE FOR
JUNIOR COLLEGES
96 POWELL LIBRARY BUILDING
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90024
EE 36

JUL 11 1980